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Sweet with a rough texture intended for
the treatment of halitosis

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5 A subject-matter of the invention is a sweet of
"boiled sugar" type with a rough texture which can be
used for treating problems of halitosis by reducing the
lingual bacterial load.

The expression "boiled sugar" denotes, in the
field of confectionery, hard sweets which are well
10 known to the consumer and which exhibit a brittle
consistency and a glassy appearance.

Bad breath, also known as halitosis, generally
arises in the buccal cavity. Hydrogen sulphide and
methyl mercaptan are the main malodorous components
15 which are formed from bacterial decomposition of
protein substrates comprising thiol groups and
disulphides, which are primary derivatives of the
cellular components in the saliva. The content of
volatile sulphur compounds in the breath is
20 particularly high in the case of an inflammatory
condition or after long periods of reduction in
salivary flow during sleep and after buccal cleaning
processes have ceased. This content of volatile sulphur
compounds in the breath can be significantly reduced in
25 the majority of cases by means of careful brushing of
the buccal cavity, including the dorsal-posterior
surface of the tongue, or by rinsing with a mouthwash
comprising zinc salts. The tongue is very often the
cause of halitosis. This is because it comprises
30 numerous villi which retain the bacteria responsible
for bad breath and form a lingual deposit.

Mouthwashes are not always effective as they do
not make it possible to reach the whole of the
bacterial layer at the surface of the tongue and are
35 sometimes astringent for the buccal cavity.

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The most effective treatment consists in cleaning the tongue using a tongue scraper and in using a buccal solution. The tongue scraper makes it possible to remove the lingual deposit and thus to reduce by half
5 the bad smell given off. The major disadvantage of this nevertheless very effective treatment is the great inconvenience caused by the use of this type of device. Provision has also been made to clean the tongue using a toothbrush but this technique is itself also very
10 inconvenient and somewhat painful.

At the same time, confectionery based on polyols intended for buccal hygiene is known, such as that disclosed in Patent US 6 083 527, the anti-halitosis effect of which is based on the increase in the pH of
15 the saliva due to the presence of calcium hydroxide.

In order to avoid the inconveniences of scraping the tongue and with the aim of inhibiting the growth of, indeed even of removing, the microorganisms involved in halitosis, the Applicant has developed a
20 novel "boiled sugar" sweet with a rough texture which scrapes the tongue without injuring it so as to strip off the bacterial film responsible for halitosis.

The expression "boiled sugar" denotes, in the field of confectionery, hard, glassy and brittle sweets well known to the consumer. The "boiled sugar" sweets
25 in accordance with the invention have the distinguishing feature of exhibiting a rough texture, that is to say more exactly a granular texture, throughout the body of the sweet.

A subject-matter of the invention is thus a sweet of cooked sugar type, characterized in that it exhibits a rough texture intended for the treatment of
30 halitosis.

Another subject-matter of the invention is a
35 process for the preparation of a novel sweet of boiled

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sugar type exhibiting the said rough texture.

To achieve such a texture, unusual in confectionery of this type, the Applicant has found, after lengthy research, that it is appropriate to add, to the massecuite of boiled sugar, a specific ingredient corresponding to the following two criteria:

- a melting point of greater than 110°C
- a mean particle size of greater than or equal to 200 microns and preferably of greater than or equal to 400 microns.

The sweet in accordance with the invention is thus characterized in that it comprises a crystalline ingredient capable of conferring on it a rough texture intended for the treatment of halitosis.

Crystalline ingredient capable of conferring on the cooked sugar a rough texture intended for the treatment of halitosis is therefore intended to mean any powdered saccharide, which may or may not be hydrogenated, corresponding to these criteria.

Use may thus be made, without this list being exhaustive, of mannitol, maltitol, erythritol, isomalt, anhydrous lactitol, sucrose, anhydrous dextrose, lactose, anhydrous trehalose, mannose, galactose, xylose or cyclodextrins.

Crystalline ingredient capable of conferring on the boiled sugar a rough texture intended for the treatment of halitosis is also understood to mean any organic acid or organic acid salt corresponding to the two criteria of melting point and of particle size set out above.

To prepare sweets in accordance with the present invention, use is made of a process, characterized in that it comprises the following stages:

- cooking a carbohydrate or a mixture of carbohydrates at atmospheric pressure at a

temperature sufficient to allow vitrification of the massecuite when it is cooled;

- addition to the massecuite of a crystalline ingredient capable of conferring on the sweet a rough texture intended for the treatment of halitosis.

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As regards the stage of cooking at atmospheric pressure, this can optionally be followed by application of a vacuum.

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The carbohydrate or the mixture of carbohydrates which can be used in the process according to the invention can be chosen from any carbohydrate known to a person skilled in the art which is suitable for the preparation of good-quality boiled sugars.

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This carbohydrate or this mixture of carbohydrates will advantageously be chosen from a large number of possibilities, such as in particular sucrose - glucose syrup mixtures, sucrose - glucose syrup and water mixtures, maltitol syrups, sorbitol syrups, hydrogenated glucose syrups, mannitol or isomalt and hydrogenated glucose syrups, mannitol or isomalt and maltitol syrups, syrups of maltitol as a mixture with mannitol and water, isomalt and water mixtures, isomalt, polydextrose and water mixtures, or hydrogenated or nonhydrogenated dextrans.

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The carbohydrate or the mixtures of carbohydrates can in particular comprise oligosaccharides or polysaccharides, dextrans or polyglucoses, such as polydextroses, for example those disclosed in Patent Application EP 561 090, of which the Applicant is proprietor. The boiled sugars will thus advantageously be less calorific. These carbohydrates can naturally be combined with one another.

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The carbohydrate or mixture of carbohydrates which can be used according to the process in accordance with the

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invention can also be hydrogenated. It will then be chosen in particular from the hydrogenated syrups disclosed in Patent Applications EP 0 561 089, EP 0 561 088 and EP 0 611 527, of which the Applicant is proprietor. Isomalt, pure or as a mixture, can be added thereto.

According to an alternative form of the process according to the invention, the mixture of carbohydrates is a maltitol syrup, sold by the Applicant under the name Lycasin[®] HBC, or an isomalt syrup.

According to a preferred alternative form of the process in accordance with the invention, the ingredient capable of conferring a rough texture on the boiled sugar is incorporated in the cooked sugar massecuite at a content of approximately 20% by dry weight.

According to another preferred alternative form of the process in accordance with the invention, the said ingredient is a crystalline polyol.

The boiled sugar sweet according to the present invention thus exhibits the twofold advantage of contributing to the treatment of halitosis and of not being cariogenic.

A better understanding of the invention will result from the following examples, which are meant to be illustrative and not limiting.

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Example 1

Boiled sugars were prepared according to the following recipe:

INGREDIENT	BOILED SUGARS A	BOILED SUGARS B	Composition on a dry basis (%)	
			A	B
Lycasin [®] HBC	842.4 g	842.7 g	79.6	
Mannitol 400 DC	153.7 g	0	19.9	
Maltitol powder	0	153.7 g	19.9	
Aspartame	2.7 g	2.7 g	0.3	
Menthol	1.2 g	1.2 g	0.2	

5 The mannitol 400 DC is a mannitol powder with a mean particle size of approximately 400 microns.

The maltitol powder has a particle size of between 400 and 800 microns.

The Lycasin[®] HBC is cooked at 135°C.

10 The mixture of mannitol 400 DC or of maltitol, of aspartame and of menthol is subsequently added.

The mixture is tempered and shaped.

The sweets obtained have a rough appearance and scrape the surface of the tongue without injuring it
15 throughout their time in the mouth.

Example 2

One hour after the end of the meal, an impression of the dorsum of the tongue is taken in order to
20 evaluate the bacteria present at the surface. Immediately afterwards, a sweet according to the invention was consumed like a normal boiled sugar, that is to say virtually until it had completely melted away, and then a second impression of the dorsum of the
25 tongue was taken.

The medium for incubating the impressions is composed of brain heart infusion.

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The media are incubated under anaerobiosis conditions at 37°C for 2 days.

The following counts are obtained:

	Number of colonies per cm ² after the meal	Number of colonies per cm ² after ingestion of the sweet
TEST 1	41	9
TEST 2	65	22

5. These results clearly demonstrate the effect of reducing the bacterial population at the surface of the tongue and thus the treatment of halitosis after consumption of a sweet according to the invention.

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